



USAID | AFGHANISTAN

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Rebuilding Agricultural Markets Program (RAMP)

Sector: Agriculture

SO-1: Reestablish Food Security

Increase Afghanistan's Marketable Output by US\$250 million

Implementer: Chemonics International, Inc.

LOP Budget: \$150.3 million

Duration: July 2003 – June 2006

As of December 1, 2005, RAMP has met its programmatic goal of increasing the marketable output of Afghanistan's agricultural sector by \$250 million and exceeded this goal by \$361.5 million for a total increase of \$511.5 million with 6 months remaining.

Achievements in the major program areas include:

Rehabilitating Irrigation Systems

- 552 km of canals de-silted
- 340 irrigation structures repaired
- Irrigation for 341,624 hectares of farmland improved



Improving Market Infrastructure

- 415km farm to market roads rehabilitated
- 145 multipurpose market centers constructed
- 6 storage and processing warehouses constructed



Rebuilding the Livestock Sector

- 21,494 women trained in poultry production technology and management and 203,926 chickens distributed
- 895,123 farmers served by extension services
- 340 veterinary field units established in 31 provinces with over 210 trained para-vets providing over 17.7 million vaccinations and treatments.

Market Development

- Shipments of grapes totaling over 130mt have been exported to Germany, India, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. Raisin exports to Russia total 80mt.
- Grape shipments are enabled by the installation of cold storage units in the major market areas of Kunduz, Kandahar, Kabul, Helmand and Parwan. A total of 80 cold storage facilities are programmed and in the process of implementation.
- 17 Village-based seed enterprises (VBSE) established and providing improved and high yielding seed varieties for grains and vegetables. The VBSEs of Kunduz provided 700mt of the improved wheat seed used in the Agricultural Input Supply Program – the nationwide distribution of 500,000 packages of seed and fertilizer to Afghan farmers to facilitate independence from poppy income.
- Over 1000 Afghan farmers are providing 10mt of vegetables daily to the Parwan Vegetable Dehydration Factory, funded by USAID and Development Works Canada (DWC). The factory employs over 60 Afghan men and women as well as contracting with 285 women to sun dry tomatoes in their homes for processing and packaging at the plant. Over 10mt dried vegetables shipped to Europe to date.



Project Highlights

Capacity Building Initiative for the Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture



In response to a request from Minister Ramin, USAID/RAMP moved quickly to create the Institutional Capacity Building Project to facilitate his goals for the MAAHF. The project duration is from July 2005 to July 2006. USAID is providing a cadre of senior officials to work closely with the Minister to develop a vision and conceptualize a strategic plan. The specialists include: an expatriate Policy, Planning and Strategy advisor, an expatriate Alternative Livelihoods advisor, an Afghan Legal Advisor, and an expatriate Private Sector Livestock advisor.

Seeds for Afghanistan's Future

Working through the Afghanistan Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development and Counter Narcotics, the **"Seeds for Your Future,"** the Agricultural Input Supply Program, is distributing over **500,000 packages of high quality seed** and fertilizer to farmers across the nation of Afghanistan, beginning in Badakshan in October 2005. The campaign will provide the improved seed of wheat, potato and other vegetables along with fertilizer and best practices information. The program is designed to assist farmers in improving their incomes from legal crops and shifting away from poppy cultivation.



New Plant Protection Laboratory for the Ministry of Agriculture

A new laboratory, complete with centrifuge, microscopes, and a culture room has been installed. The Plant Protection laboratory at the Ministry now boasts a Pathology Lab, Culture Room, and Entomology Lab. As a result, Ministry extension workers in the provinces and farmers can seek out assistance in identifying and treating the diseases and pests that attack crops.



Helmand Wheat Crop Saved

About 20,000 hectares of this year's bumper crop of wheat in Helmand Province were saved from an infestation of Sunn pest (*Eurygaster integriceps*) through a collaborative effort between USAID/RAMP, area farmers, the Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the Provincial Reconstruction Team. The 20,000 hectares represent 27% of the total wheat area cultivated in Helmand province in 2004. There are two direct economic impacts of this intervention on farmer's incomes: yields and market value. Calculated at the average price for wheat in Helmand, US\$180 per metric ton, the Sunn pest control program prevented a loss of US\$6,300,000 to farmers.

Potatoes and Crop Diversity in Afghanistan: Improved Yields, New Markets, Higher Incomes

By training farmers in the production of virus-free potato seed, yields are dramatically increased. From an average of 16.8mt of potatoes per hectare, farmers are realizing an increase to 21.7mt to 33.5mt per hectare. Along with improved yields per crop, many farmers have also adopted an autumn season planting along with their traditional spring planting. In certain areas, such as Helmand Province, this presents a very attractive alternative to growing poppy.

Micro-lending:

The \$5 million contribution to the Microfinance Investment and Support Facility (MISFA) created by the World Bank) as direct loan capital to 12 Micro-Finance Institutions. 99% repayment rate. 28,118 loans disbursed for micro-agribusinesses to date. 83% of clients were women. 11 months average loan term. Loan Range of \$100 - \$6,000. Average loan size: \$172.

Small and Medium Enterprise Lending: RAMP provided \$2 million for funding of revolving credit facility (total assets of \$10 million) to be established by Afghanistan International Bank (AIB). Loan amounts are to range from \$50,000 - \$500,000. 7 loans disbursed to agribusinesses • \$2,000,000 disbursed • Average loan size \$300,000 • Average loan term 18 months. Businesses receiving loans include: flour mill, raisin processor, input supplier, cumin and sesame seed processor and a large operation farmer.